GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2584
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2000
IMPORT OF NEWSPRINT
T.T.V. DHINAKARAN

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of newsprint imported during each of the last three years;

(b) the quantum of consumption of newsprint by the print media during each of the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the indigenous production of newsprint ?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) the quantum of newsprint imported during 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (April - December, 1999) is as under : -

Qty in Tonnes

1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
			(Apr - Dec, 99) (Provisional)
494038	539655	426641	294072

(Source : D G C I & S, Calcutta)

(b) The import of newsprint by actual users being free since 1995, upto date consumption data is not available.

(c) Following steps have been taken by the Government to increase the indigenous production of newsprint: -

i) Newsprint industry has been delicensed subject to locational policy.
ii) Newsprint has been exempted from excise duty.
iii) There is no customs duty on pulp for manufacture of newsprint.
iv) With a view to encouraging the indigenous availability of newsprint, such paper mills which are producing newsprint conforming to BIS standards are placed in schedule I to the newsprints control order, 1962 declaring them as mills manufacturing newsprint.